

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/765,942	SAITO, KAZUHIRO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LUU MATTHEW	2676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the IDS statement filed October 5, 2004.

2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.

3.  The drawings filed on 29 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.

4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached  
1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

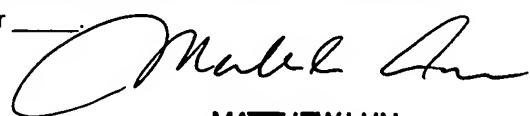
(b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>10/5/2004</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                                | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |



MATTHEW LUU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

### Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art made of record teaches or suggests a color separation table generation method of generating a color separation table used to separate an input color into a plurality of color agent colors, comprising:

a first table generation step of generating color separation data on a first line that connects white and black points in the color separation table;

a second table generation step of generating color separation data on a plurality of second lines each of which connects the white point and each of primary color points each expressed by one of the color agent colors and secondary color points each expressed by two of the color agent colors;

a third table generation step of generating color separation data on a plurality of third lines each of which connects each of the primary and secondary color points and the black point;

a fourth table generation step of generating color separation data on a plurality of fourth lines each of which connects the primary and secondary color points; and

an interpolation step of generating color separation data at grid points inside a three-dimensional color space by an interpolation process based on the color separation data on the first to fourth lines,

wherein the interpolation step includes a step of executing an interpolation process using a finite element method for each triangular plane specified on the color space.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

-The closest prior art, Dalrymple et al (US 2003/007216) disclose a color conversion method with hue straightening using multiple look-up tables (LUTs) and interpolation. Dalrymple discloses (Fig. 1) a first line segment that connects white and black points (12 and 14); Fig. 9 shows the upper half hue straightening process which connects the white point and each of primary colors (C,M,Y) and secondary color points (R,G,B); and Fig. 5 shows the lower half hue straightening and black generation which connects each of the primary (C,M,Y) and secondary color points (R,G,B) to the black point (Bk).

However, Dalrymple et al fail to disclose the claimed "a fourth table generation step of generating color separation data on a plurality of fourth lines each of which connects the primary (C,M,Y) and secondary (R,G,B) color points; and an interpolation step of generating color separation data at grid points inside a three-dimensional color space by an interpolation process based on the color separation data on the first to fourth lines". As the matter of fact, Dalrymple et al disclose that there are no

interpolation grid points between the pure color point and the white point to correct for the hue shifting region. See Dalrymple, section (89).

-Inoue (6,571,010) discloses (Figs. 1 and 2) a color conversion apparatus in which an input color space is divided into unit solids, lattice point data constituting the unit solids are stored in a three-dimensional color conversion table memory, and an interpolation calculation is performed by use of the color conversion of a color image signal expressed by various color signals. Figure 2 shows reference numeral 118 represents an interpolation circuit, that is, the triangular prism and tetrahedron interpolation calculator for performing linear interpolation. However, Inoue fails to disclose the first to fourth table generation steps of generating color separation data on a plurality of first to fourth lines; and an interpolation step of generating color separation data at grid points inside a three-dimensional color space by an interpolation process based on the color separation data on the first to fourth lines.

-Kasson et al (5,390,035) disclose a color conversion method for converting an input color to an output color using a multi-variable function having an input domain in a first three-dimensional color space and output range in a second m-dimensional color space. The conversion from input to output color subdivides the input domain into polyhedron defined by planar grids of points connected to form a plurality of triangles. However, Kasson et al fail to disclose the first to fourth table generation steps of generating color separation data on a plurality of first to fourth lines; and an interpolation step of generating color separation data at grid points inside a three-dimensional color

space by an interpolation process based on the color separation data on the first to fourth lines.

-Yamaguchi (6,587,223) discloses (Fig. 14) a color signal converter comprises first, second and third color conversion tables (4,5,6), a color conversion table selector (9), and a color conversion table data interpolation section (10).

-Shimizu et al (6,292,195) disclose a color signal selection apparatus for selecting irregularly distributed output color points of one color space surrounding an inputted color point of another color space.

-Zeng et al (US 2004/0141642) disclose a color space conversion technique using interpolation.

-Ozeki (6,072,464) discloses a single color characteristic indicating a relation between the signal value and the color material transfer amount and a color mixing characteristic indicating a relation between each color material transfer amount (ink amount) of a plurality of inks and the chromaticity are obtained.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUU MATTHEW whose telephone number is (703) 305-4850. The examiner can normally be reached on Flexible Schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BELLA MATTHEW can be reached on (703) 308-6829. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M. Luu



MATTHEW LUU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER